

**AUTOMATED SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR BONDING  
AN ACRYLIC SURFACE TO A FRAME**

**Abstract of the Disclosure**

A basketball backboard assembly and a method of making  
the backboard assembly are disclosed. The assembly includes  
a backboard frame structure and an acrylic backboard which  
are bonded together with a suitable elastomeric adhesive,  
such as a silicone adhesive, providing adequate adhesion and  
flexibility. The elastomeric adhesive has a bond gap in the  
range from about 2 to 2.5 mm. The adhesive is catalyzed to  
provide control of the set time in the range from about 5  
minutes to 1 hour. A plurality of bond gap spacers are  
located between the frame bonding surface and the backboard  
bonding surface to provide the bond gap.